

Message Text

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60

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

OMB-01 DRC-01 /069 W

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R 171620Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO COMSIXTHFLT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2197

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMFAIRMED

USNFSO

CHJUSMAGG ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0376

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS DURING SHIP VISITS

REF: ATHENS 0332 (NOTAL)

1. IN COURSE OF JANUARY 15 DISCUSSION RE SOUDA AB AND HOMEPORTING PHASE II, FONOFF REPS CITED AS EXAMPLE OF EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS (PARA 2, REFTEL) A REPORTED TOTAL OF "14 OR 15 INCIDENTS WITHIN 7 OR 8 DAYS" DURING RECENT SHIP VISIT TO RHODES, DETAILS OF WHICH THEY DID NOT HAVE AT THAT TIME. EMBOFFS EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN SIXTH FLEET USE OF GREEK PORTS IN RECENT YEARS RESULTING IN MORE MEN ASHORE AND, HENCE, GREATER NUMBER OF INCIDENTS. FONOFF REPS POINTED OUT THAT AWARENESS OF AND CONCERN ABOUT INCIDENTS NOW EXTENDED TO MAN ON THE STREET, AND IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT ACTION BE TAKEN TO BRING SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

2. ON JANUARY 17, KALPADAKIS, AMERICAN DESK OFFICER,
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PURSUED FURTHER MATTER OF INCIDENTS ON RHODES, AS WELL AS

GENERAL PROBLEM OF INCIDENTS IN GREEK PORTS. HE PRESENTED A MEMORANDUM DETAILING A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN RHODES FROM NOVEMBER 22-29 AND REITERATED THE GOG REQUEST THAT ACTION BE TAKEN TO PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS. HE ADDED THAT FONOFF WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF DENYING PERMISSION FOR SHIP VISITS TO RHODES IF MEANINGFUL ACTION NOT TAKEN.

3. EMBOFF REPEATED PREVIOUS RATIONALE, NOTING THAT INCIDENT RATE MIGHT WELL HAVE GONE DOWN BUT THAT GREATER NUMBER OF MAN DAYS SHORE COULD AT SAME TIME RESULT IN LARGER NUMBER OF INCIDENTS. KALPADAKIS STATED THAT ABSOLUTE NUMBER OF VISITS WAS IMPORTANT TO GOG RATHER THAN INCIDENT RATE.

4. MEMORANDUM BEING PROVIDED TO FSO ATHENS FOR WHATEVER FURTHER DISSEMINATION MIGHT BE DESIRABLE. WHILE FORMAL RESPONSE TO MEMORANDUM NOT DESIRED BY FONOFF, KALPADAKIS INVITED EMBASSY TO INFORM FONOFF OF MEASURES TAKEN BY U.S. NAVY TO PREVENT OCCURRENCE OF INCIDENTS.
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30 JUN 2005

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